

BRADFORD ON AVON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L       R E P O R T

O F       T H E

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

A N D

P U B L I C   H E A L T H   I N S P E C T O R

F O R   T H E   Y E A R

1965



BRADFORD ON AVON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION (Estimated Mid-year)	6,810
AREA	2,551 acres
RATEABLE VALUE	£206,142
SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE	£822 16s. 1d.
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	2,508
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	2.72

---

CHAIRMAN of the COUNCIL	H. G. BAKER, ESQ.
CHAIRMAN of the HOUSING COMMITTEE	MRS. D. M. NEWMAN
CHAIRMAN of the GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	J. S. BENJAMIN, ESQ.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	DR. J. L. DAVIES, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	C. M. HOLSGROVE, CERT. S.I.B., MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTOR, M.A.P.H.I.

WESTBURY HOUSE,  
BRADFORD ON AVON,  
WILTSHIRE.

Tel. BRADFORD ON AVON 2256-7

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 1965.

In general, the health of the town continues to be satisfactory, as indicated by the statistics. There was an epidemic of measles which tends to occur every two or three years, but apart from that the town was remarkably free from notifiable infectious diseases. There were no cases of food poisoning reported, but steps were taken to ensure that contacts and carriers of gastro-intestinal infections were not involved in food handling until negative bacteriological tests had been obtained.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN L. DAVIES.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales 1965</u>
Legitimate .. ..	59	64	123	108	
Illegitimate .. ..	6	5	11	9	
TOTAL	65	69	134	117	
<u>CRUDE LIVE BIRTH RATE</u> per 1,000 population			19.7	18.3	
<u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS</u> 7.7% of Total Live Births				8.2	
<u>CORRECTED LIVE BIRTH RATE</u> per 1,000 population (Comparability factor 1.06)			20.9	20.1	18.2
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>					
Legitimate .. ..	0	0	0	5	
Illegitimate .. ..	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL	0	0	0	5	
<u>STILL BIRTH RATE</u> per 1,000 live and still births			Nil	41.0	15.5
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>	65	69	134	122	
<u>TOTAL DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES</u>	41	36	77	68	
<u>DEATH RATE</u> per 1,000 population <u>ALL CAUSES</u>			11.3	10.6	
<u>CORRECTED DEATH RATE</u> per 1,000 population (Comparability factor 0.98)			11.1	9.7	14.6

Vital Statistics      (Cont'd.)

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales 1965</u>
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (under 1 year)					
Legitimate    ..   ..   ..   ..   ..	2	1	3	7	
Illegitimate   ..   ..   ..   ..   ..	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	
TOTAL	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	
<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATE</u>					
per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births			24.4	64.8	
"       "    Illegitimate Live Births			181.8	111.1	
TOTAL			37.3	68.4	20.3
<u>NEO-NATAL DEATHS</u> (under 4 weeks)	1	1	2	3	
<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL DEATHS</u> (under 1 week)	1	1	2	5	
<u>NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> per 1,000					
Live Births			14.9	51.3	
<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>					
per 1,000 Live Births			14.9	42.7	
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (still births					
and deaths under 1 week per					
1,000 live and still births)			14.9	82.0	26.3
<u>MATERNAL DEATHS</u> (including abortion)			Nil	Nil	
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE</u> per 1,000					
Live and Still Births			Nil	Nil	

- - - - -

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1965

	Sex	Total All Ages	4 weeks		Age in Years			
			Under 4 weeks	& under 1 year	1-5	5-65	65-75	75 and over
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	3	-	-	-	1	1	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	3	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	5	-	-	-	1	3	1
	F	8	-	-	-	1	3	3
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	10	-	-	-	1	4	2
	F	6	-	-	-	-	3	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	2	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	8	-	-	-	-	2	6
Other Heart Disease	M	11	-	-	-	-	2	11
	F	3	-	-	-	-	2	1
Other Circulatory Disease	M	3	-	-	-	-	2	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	2	1
Influenza	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	M	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	M	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	1	-	-	-	1	1
Suicide	M	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total All Causes	M	41	1	2	1	5	14	14
	F	36	1	1	1	4	9	19

1965

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Respiratory Tuberculosis	1 Male
Measles	44 Cases

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures for immunisations and vaccinations carried out in Bradford on Avon in 1965:-

IMMUNISATION

Year of Birth		1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1956-60	1950-55
Primary imms. completed during 1965	Diph.	42	63	16	15	5	2	-
	Wh/c	42	63	16	15	5	1	-
	Tet.	42	63	16	15	5	5	-
Reinf. injects. administered during 1965	Diph.	-	12	32	4	3	84	-
	Wh/c	-	7	23	3	2	17	-
	Tet.	-	12	32	4	3	74	1

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

	Months				Years		
Age Group	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
Vaccinations	-	2	-	1	23	5	6
Re-vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	1	3



COMPLETED POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATIONS DURING 1965

AGE GROUP	3rd. Quad	2nd inj.	3rd inj. or 4th Quad.	4th inj.	3 Oral doses	2 Orals after 2 inj.	4th Oral after 3 inj. or 3 oral
1965	-	-	-	-	23	-	-
1964	-	-	-	-	74	-	1
1963	-	-	-	-	14	-	3
1962	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
1961	-	-	-	-	3	-	11
1956 - 1960	-	-	1	-	11	9	53
1950 - 1955	-	-	-	-	3	-	2
Others under 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others over 16	-	-	-	-	10	-	16
TOTALS	-	-	1	-	142	9	90

-----  
GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory at the Manor Hospital, Combe Park, Bath, carries out all bacteriological examination of milk, ice-cream and other foods. Messrs. Waterfall & O'Brien of Queen's Square, Bristol, act as Consulting Analysts to the Council.

Hospital Facilities

These are the responsibility of the South Western Regional Hospital Board.

The Bradford on Avon District Hospital continues to be available for general cases, whilst many of the residents can, and do, avail themselves of hospital facilities in Bath.

The Berryfield Maternity Hospital, Bradford on Avon, is used both for local cases and cases from the West Wilts Hospitals Management Committee's area.



Claverton Hospital, Bath, is the main Hospital for infectious diseases for a wide area and all serious ones are admitted directly there.

Other Facilities:

- (1) Home Helps: The County Council Home Help Service gives great assistance in cases of acute illness, and even more in giving assistance in the homes of aged persons.
- (2) Nursing in the Home: One midwife and one nurse are available for the nursing of expectant mothers and the sick in the home.
- (3) In addition to the above, the Wilts. County Council also provide for the following services in the area:

Mental Health.

Services under part III of the National Health Service Act for the prevention of illness, care and after care, health education.

Ambulances and Ambulance Cars.

Health Visiting.

Child Welfare.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 and 1951

No action had to be taken under Section 47 during the year.

J. L. DAVIES, M.B.,  
B.S., D.P.H.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28945311>

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1965

To the Chairman and Members of the Bradford on Avon Urban District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my report for the year 1965.

The trend in housing development was probably the most significant feature of the year, and this was most marked by the continuing increase in the numbers of private houses built. In three years ending December 1962, only 61 private houses were erected, whilst in the period of three years ending in December 1965, 362 private dwellings were completed. The completion of Widbrook View site this year brought the total of Council Houses built since the war (including O/P Flats and Tory Restoration) to 517 units, apart from the 30 temporary pre-fabs erected initially.

Following the successful completion in 1963 of the Tory Preservation Scheme, the Council this year approved a scheme for the restoration of a further eleven dwellings in Middle Rank at a cost (including Ministry Grant) of approximately £56,000. This seemingly high cost can be attributed to the difficulty of site access and the specialist nature of the works involved, but is considered worthwhile in preserving the architectural feature of which it forms part.

Other decisions taken during the year which are worthy of note include the Council's agreement to the re-development of the St. Margaret's Hill area; the two-phase clearance of the Ashley Close pre-fab site and its re-development with 40 three-bedroomed terraced houses, and the provision of a new indoor swimming pool to replace the old and rather limited one, which exists.

I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, and to my colleagues on the staff, for their continued help and co-operation.

Faithfully yours,

C.M. HOLSGROVE.

Public Health Inspector.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

### Refuse Collection

Despite the continuing increase in the number of occupied dwellings in the town, the once weekly kerbside collection of refuse was maintained by the use of only one vehicle and crew. This was achieved by a further extension during the year of the paper sack system, bringing the number of houses so equipped up to 650, and by once again increasing the Friday collection rota.

It is apparent, however, that saturation point for one vehicle has been reached, and in face of continuing development, a decision must soon be taken as to whether a second vehicle be purchased, or a more positive extension of the paper sack scheme be adopted.

### Refuse Disposal

Tipping continued as in previous years in the same site. Notice to terminate tipping facilities was given to a local firm, who for many years had deposited waste rubber on the tip. Towards the end of the year I reported on the lack of suitable tipping sites in the area, and suggested that it might well be worthwhile investigating the possibilities of a joint disposal scheme with adjoining Local Authorities using pulverization or incineration, and it was agreed that preliminary meetings of officers be arranged.

## SALVAGE

Once again increasing housing development further cut the spare time available for salvage baling. If all the potential yield of waste paper and cardboard is to be utilized, the employment of part-time labour to bale it will have to be considered. The amount despatched to the Mills this year was 15 tons 16 cwt.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The new works continued to function satisfactorily. Some trouble was experienced from pump blockages, and a mechanical screen was installed to eliminate this. The use of Aluminium Chlorohydrate to assist sludge drying was also tried towards the end of the year, on an experimental basis.



Examination of Effluent sampled on Tuesday, 11th May, 1965

at 13.30 hours

Recent weather'            Dry

Physical Characteristics

pH    7.2

Slightly cloudy, pale grey colour; negligible amount of suspended matter present.

Chemical Characteristics

mg. per litre (p.p.m.)

Biochemical oxygen demand in 5 days  
                                 at 20°C.

7

Suspended solids

14

Chloride radical

141

SWIMMING BATH

The Council owned indoor swimming pool again operated satisfactorily throughout the season, and I am grateful to the Attendant for the excellent supervision and maintenance he achieved. One bacteriological sample result showed slight evidence of contamination, but this was found to be due to a defect in the chlorinator, and in addition, the sample had been taken during a period of particularly heavy usage.

Following upon the discussions, reported last year, to enlarge and improve these old baths, it was found that the proposals were impractical and costly in relation to the advantages that would be gained. It was, therefore, decided to consider building a new indoor pool, and a specialist firm was engaged to prepare a suitable design. This was completed and approved by the Council, and the firm concerned were then instructed to prepare a Bill of Quantities, so that a firm price could be submitted for the scheme.

HOUSING

In the introduction to this report, I have already mentioned the increase in private house building; the St. Margaret's Hill Re-development Scheme (which will comprise a further block of O/P Flats); the re-development of the Ashley Close pre-fab. site; the Middle Rank Restoration Scheme, and the completion of the Widbrook View Council house site.

Further progress in the housing field during the year included the repair and improvement of 95, Trowbridge Road to provide four flats (tender accepted), the decision to survey the area of land between Trowbridge Road and Frome Road for future housing development needs, the demolition of nine Pre-fabs for first phase re-development, and the demolition of thirteen houses in the St. Margaret's Hill area.

Number of houses classified as unfit:-

Demolition Orders.....3  
 Closing Orders.....-  
 Undertakings accepted.....10

13

Number of Closing Orders  
 cancelled or rescinded.....1  
 Number of Undertakings  
 cancelled or rescinded.....8  
 Number of Demolition Orders  
 cancelled.....-

9

Houses built during the year

By the Council.....37  
 By private enterprise.....162

Improvement Grants Approved

Discretionary.....12  
 Standard.....10

FOOD

Milk

Milk sampling continued as a delegated function for the County Council, with the following results:-

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Passed</u> <u>Prescribed Tests</u>	<u>Failed</u> <u>Prescribed Tests</u>
Sterilized	4	Nil
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	35	Nil
Channel Island (Pasteurised)	26	Nil

Total Samples taken.....65

Number of Licenced dealers.....7 until 2nd November, 1965,  
 after which there were 6.

All dealers obtain their milk pre-packed from plants in other districts.

Ice Cream

Number of premises registered for the storage and sale  
 of ice cream.....23

	<u>Results of Sampling</u>			
	<u>Grade I</u>	<u>Grade II</u>	<u>Grade III</u>	<u>Grade IV</u>
Number of Samples taken	39	4	Nil	Nil



## Water

Twelve routine samples were taken from the distribution main for bacteriological analysis, and all these were satisfactory.

### Chemical Analysis

	<u>Sub-Station</u>	<u>Main Station</u>
<u>Physical Examination</u>		
Appearance	Clear, colourless. Very slight trace of sediment. Definite chlorinated smell.	Clear, colourless. Very slight trace of sediment. Definite chlorinated smell.
<u>General Chemical Examination</u>		
Reaction pH	7.3	7.40
	<u>Parts per Million</u>	
Free Chlorine	0.6	0.5
Ammonia (as N)		
Free	0.002	0.003
Albuminoid	0.010	0.016
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	164	25
equivalent to Sodium Chloride	270	41
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.)	0.10	0.23
Nitrogen in Nitrite	faint trace only, less than .01	Faint trace only.
Nitrogen in Nitrate	1.7	3.8
Total Solids	766	428
Loss on ignition	8	16
Appearance on ignition	No charring	Very slight charring.
Hardness: Temporary	298	259
Permanent	97	59
Total	395	318
Lead	Pb less than 0.1	less than 0.1
Copper	Cu less than 0.1	less than 0.1

## Food Hygiene Regulations 1960

Grocers and Greengrocers.....	20
Confectioners.....	6
Butchers.....	4
Hotels, Public Houses and Clubs.....	18
Restaurants and Cafes.....	4
Fish and Chip Saloon.....	1
Wholesale.....	2
Agricultural (not farms).....	4
	<u>59</u>

Routine inspections continued and any action necessary was satisfactorily obtained by informal means.

### RODENT CONTROL

During the year 23 dwelling houses were treated for infestations of rats or mice, necessitating a total of 138 visits to provide effective eradication. Treatment was carried out to 16 business premises for which 255 visits were made.

Sewer treatments again showed good results, and the effect of persistent and regular treatments with Warfarin are beginning to show in the declining figures of sewer rat population. Of 85 manholes treated, all in the known areas of infestation, 44 showed no take on the last treatment.

During this year the Rodent Operative attended a three-day course with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, at Devizes.

### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Generally speaking, there is very little incidence of atmospheric pollution within the Urban area, but in the one particular case involving a centrally situated factory, a rather serious nuisance from rubber dust emission had caused concern. By April of this year, however, the installation of the new extractor plant was completed, but unfortunately this did not prove to be 100% efficient, and a residual fall-out continued to occur. Various modifications were tried in an effort to eliminate this, but these were unsuccessful, and before the end of the year the Company concerned agreed to install a bag-filter unit in the extractor plant, prior to passing exhaust gasses into the boiler stack.

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT - GENERAL

During this year, a joint complaint was made to the Council

by a group of residents living in some proximity to a large manure composting yard belonging to a local firm of mushroom growers. The complaint concerned the unpleasant odour produced by the process, and was made despite the fact that de-odourising plant had been installed. As a result, a joint meeting was arranged, and the Company agreed to re-site the composting area farther away from the dwellings and to put it under cover. This work was, in fact, started in September, and completion was promised by early summer 1966. Arising from this, the Company further negotiated an agreement with this Council to accept the storm water overflow from the compost area drainage tanks into their sewer, instead of allowing it to discharge into the canal as at present.

#### DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER 1957

No. of premises licenced.....3

No. of breaches of order.....Nil

Once again, the premises licenced to boil swill, operated throughout the year without giving rise to any nuisances.

#### PET ANIMALS ACT

There is one premises only licenced under this Act, and this operated satisfactorily throughout the year.

#### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

TABLE A - REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Period covered: Year 1965

Class of premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Offices	Nil	11	2
Retail shops	1	40	6
Wholesale shops, warehouses	Nil	2	Nil
Catering establishments open to the public; canteens	Nil 2	Nil 2	Nil
Fuel storage depots	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	1 3	53 55	8

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

(1) INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of: Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	21	22	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	2	6	-	-
Total	25	33	-	-



FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (Cont'd.)

(2) Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	No. cases in which defects found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	4	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT 1961 - OUTWORK  
(Section 133 (2))

Nil

C. M. HOLSGROVE  
Public Health Inspector.







